



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development

Date: June 28, 2023

Thru: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner

Telephone: (907) 465-2911

From: Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan, Director
Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums

Subject: Agenda 14B. Division of
Libraries, Archives & Museums
Standing Report

ALASKA STATE
**LIBRARIES
ARCHIVES
& MUSEUMS**

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, AND MUSEUMS

The Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM) serves to promote and coordinate library services in Alaska, preserves government records, and collects, cares for, and exhibits the diverse cultural and natural heritage of our state. The LAM Division comprises seven main components that cover a broad range of educational programs and activities. These components include Library Operations, Archives, Museum Operations, Online with Libraries, Live Homework Help, Andrew P. Kashevaroff Facilities Maintenance, and Broadband Assistance Grants. The Division supports approximately 50 full-time team members at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.

TEAM TRANSITIONS

Sheila Hernandez joined the LAM team as the Museum Protection and Visitor Services Manager on May 22.

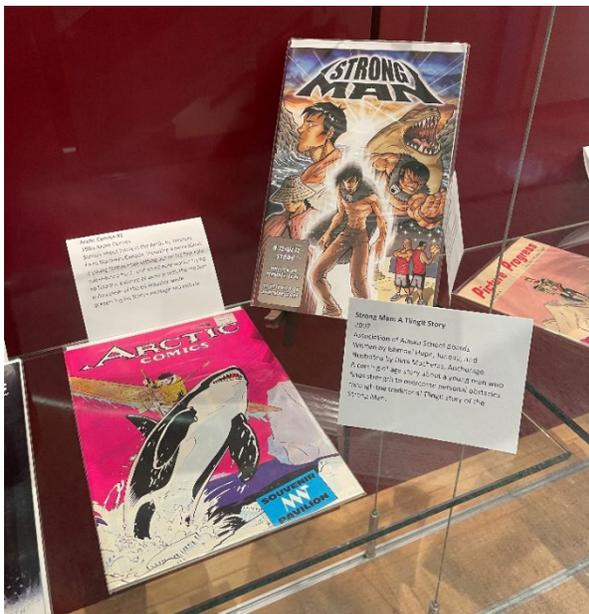
Brittany Peralta joined the LAM team as the Administrative Officer 2 on June 5.

2023 SUMMER TOURIST SEASON

The summer tourist season is here, and buses filled with cruise ship travelers are again a frequent sight at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka. Attendance at the two museums has reached over 21,000 visitors for 2023. The Museum Protection and Visitor Services team members in Juneau and Sitka deserve special recognition for their continuing professionalism and ready cheerfulness in welcoming this summer's many outside visitors to Alaska.



SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Alaska Comic Books (May). Archivist Damon Stuebner organized an exhibit of Alaska-themed comic books in the mezzanine gallery to coincide with the 2023 Alaska Robotics Minicon convention held at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building on May 13.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



May 22: The Alaska State Archives organized a screening of student documentaries as part of the *See Stories* program at Montessori Borealis. Students first visited the archives in April to research the

collections and film oral histories shared by LAM team members. Students enjoyed watching their films on the big screens in the lecture hall and applauding one another on their finished documentaries.



FREE NATURAL DYE WORKSHOP FOR AGES 8-18 WITH LILY HOPE

Saturday, June 10, 10am-noon, outdoors

Learn how natural dyes blend art and science, and create your own dyed yarn with Tlingit weaver Lily Hope.

Recommended for youth ages 8 and up.

Request a spot by filling out the participation form at library-alaska.libwizard.com/f/youthartform.

These programs are partially funded by the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenues and sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.



June 10: Natural Dye Workshop with Tlingit weaver Lily Hope. Almost two dozen youth foraged for horsetails near the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building under the guidance of Lily Hope on

June 10. Participants boiled the horsetails to make a natural green dye and dipped skeins of merino wool into baths of colored cabbage dye. Hope also gave the students a short lesson on weaving tassels for traditional Chilkat robes.



June 23: Family Fun Fair. Over 100 youth and adults participated in the Family Fun Fair held under a bright blue sky in the plaza outside the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building. Participants visited stations to create colorful bookmarks, make fish prints, bead bracelets, craft miniature puppet theaters, learn about money, and explore space. Tables were staffed by team members from across DEED as well as local partners from NOAA

and the Marie Drake Planetarium.



June 23: After a three-year absence and recent repair work, Friday theatre organ concerts have resumed at the Alaska State Office Building (SOB). The organ was brought to Juneau in 1928 by W. D. Gross and was played at the Orpheum Theatre before entering the collection of the Alaska State Museum. The organ has eight sets of pipes, 548 in all, ranging from pencil-size to eight-foot lengths. The Alaska State Museum and Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum work together to support this

historical artifact, the last theatre organ in Alaska. *Image: J. Allan MacKinnon plays the pipe organ during a concert at the SOB on June 23.*

GRANTS, GUIDES, and COLLABORATIONS

Alaska State Historic Preservation Office/State Libraries, Archives, and Museums
Announce the launch of the new
Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program
HOW to APPLY for Grants Learning Session

Ahooy Mateys!
Do you have a Maritime Heritage Project that needs funding?
Then come learn more about the new
Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program and
How to Apply for Maritime Grants

State Historian Katie Rungtornith, Statewide Services Counsel Mary Irvine, and Grants Administrators Joan Ayers and Kathleen Tier will provide information about the new Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program and HOW to APPLY for the first round of preservation and education maritime grants!

Session Date:
July 11 at 1-2:30 pm, via Microsoft Teams

Session Sign-Up:
Email dnr.cla@alaska.gov, provide your name, institution, and contact information.

Questions: Email us at dnr.oah@alaska.gov

When: July 11 at 1 PM
What: Is Alaska's Maritime Heritage Preservation Program?
What: Types of Grants Opportunities are Available?
What: Is eligible, what is not?
How: Much funding is available?
How: To Complete a Grant Application?

Maritime Heritage Grant: The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums are excited to offer a new grant opportunity focused on maritime heritage. The grant supports building infrastructure, object preservation, and educational programming, from culture camps to activities using or highlighting maritime resources. The application period opens in August 2023 and welcomes applications from institutions, organizations, and individuals for year-long projects to commence at the start of 2024. An informational session to discuss potential maritime heritage projects will be held on July 11. Participants can sign-up for the session by emailing dnr.oah@alaska.gov



Alaska Newspaper Guide: The Alaska State Library has created a new guide to help researchers find articles in older Alaskan newspapers. The guide combines coverage from printed indexes with Alaska State Library digitized historic newspapers searchable through Chronicling America. The resource carries special potential for middle and high school history and social studies students looking for an Alaskan perspective on topics from Alaska Statehood and Project Chariot to Women's Suffrage and the World Wars. Access the new guide at: <https://lam.alaska.gov/newspaperindexes>



Alaska Heritage Emergency Network: The Alaska Heritage Emergency Network (AHEN) is a new partnership between cultural heritage institutions, professional organizations, and emergency response agencies established to address cultural heritage needs before, during, and after a disaster. AHEN strives to provide rapid communication among libraries, archives, and museums during emergencies and to offer a

network of support. The Alaska State Museum Curator of Statewide Services and Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management team member serve as co-chairs for AHEN and work in partnership with a steering committee.

DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



Team Photo: Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums team members from Sitka and Juneau gather for a group photo in May 2023.



Strategic Planning: Agnew::Beck Consulting held a strategic planning workshop with LAM team members on May 24-25 at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building. An all-staff strategic planning session was held on May 24 with consultant-led activities that explored what our division is doing well, where assistance is needed, and where we

would like to head for the future. An ice cream social and team photo followed the planning. Agnew:Beck then held an all-day work session with team leaders on May 25 focused on initial development of a three-year strategic plan. Staff are currently working with Agnew:Beck to finalize the plan for the start of FY2024.



June: Archivist Damon Stuebner offered an interactive presentation with examples of audiovisual materials in the collections of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums for the June 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.

CHILDREN’S EXPLORATION CENTER

The Division of Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums is excited to share that the prior gift store space in the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building is being re-envisioned as a children’s exploration center. The center is conceived as a place to promote lifelong learning among young Alaskans with a focus on early literacy and hands-on exploration of the state’s unique history, culture, and art. LAM has contracted with Formations, Inc. out of Portland for planning, design, and fabrication of the children’s center. The planning team includes a terrific roster of staff from the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums as well as strategic partners from Sealaska Heritage, Discovery Southeast, and Juneau School District.



Formations team members (on each end) gather with LAM staff in the existing gift store space during a site visit in June 2023. The gift store closed in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained empty since then.